UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN SOUTHERN DIVISION

In Re: AUTOMOTIVE PARTS ANTITRUST LITIGATION

12-md-02311

Honorable Marianne O. Battani

In Re: All Auto Parts Cases

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

ALL AUTO PARTS CASES

2:12-MD-02311-MOB-MKM

DEFENDANTS' OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO INTERVENE

The undersigned Defendants hereby submit this opposition to the Motion to Intervene ("Motion") submitted by Timmy A. Curtis, Amber Lambert, and Jonathon Rich ("Movants"). Because Movants fail to provide any basis for their Motion, the Motion should be denied. Further, at least one of the Movants has a long and litigious history of filing frivolous intervention motions that have been denied repeatedly by courts across the country.

Movants seek intervention as of right under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 24(a) as well as permissive intervention under Rule 24(b). *See* Dkt No. 930 (hereinafter, "Mot."). In the Motion, Movants argue that they "have a common vested interest in this litigation" and state that they will provide "questions of laws and Facts that are common in this Litigation in support of plaintiffs [*sic*] claims." Mot. at 1. Even applying the principle that *pro se* complaints are to be held to less

stringent standards than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers, and should therefore be liberally construed, *see Williams v. Curtin*, 631 F.3d 380, 383 (6th Cir. 2011), the statements in the Motion are entirely conclusory and insufficient to satisfy the requirements of Rule 24.

As an initial matter, under Rule 24(c), a motion to intervene, whether as of right or for permissive intervention, "must state the grounds for intervention and be accompanied by a pleading that sets out the claim or defense for which intervention is sought." The movant must describe the basis for intervention with "sufficient specificity to allow the district court to rule." *Beckman Indus., Inc. v. Int'l Ins. Co.*, 966 F.2d 470, 475 (9th Cir. 1992). Here, in addition to not being accompanied by a pleading, the Motion provides only a conclusory recitation of one element of permissive intervention without specifying for which claim or defense intervention is sought. *See* Mot. at 1 ("Intervenors will provide questions of laws and Facts that are common in this Litigation."). On this basis alone, the Motion should be denied.

In addition, even construing the Motion liberally, Movants have not provided any basis for intervention under either Rule 24(a)(2) or Rule 24(b). The Sixth Circuit has held that, "to intervene as of right under Rule 24(a)(2), a proposed intervenor must establish the following four elements: (1) the motion to intervene is timely; (2) the proposed intervenor has a substantial legal interest in

the subject matter of the case; (3) the proposed intervenor's ability to protect that interest may be impaired in the absence of intervention; and (4) the parties already before the court may not adequately represent the proposed intervenor's interest." United States v. Michigan, 424 F.3d 438, 443 (6th Cir. 2005). Further, "failure to meet one of the criteria will require that the motion to intervene be denied." *Id*. (quoting Grubbs v. Norris, 870 F.2d 343, 345 (6th Cir.1989)). Movants here fail to establish even one of these four requirements. They have not alleged any facts supporting a legitimate connection to the underlying litigation, much less a substantial legal interest in the subject matter of the case. See Am. Special Risk Ins. Co. ex rel. S. Macomb Disposal Auth. v. City of Centerline, 69 F. Supp. 2d 944, 955 (E.D. Mich. 1999) (denying motion to intervene as of right because, among other things, proposed intervenor failed to illustrate how its interests would be impaired if it was not allowed to intervene). Moreover, the Motion fails to articulate why Movants believe that Co-Lead Class Counsel may not adequately protect their interests. Id.

Movants similarly fail to make a case for permissive intervention.

Permissive intervention requires that the proposed intervenor have (1) "a conditional right to intervene by a federal statute," or (2) "a claim or defense that shares with the main action a common question of law or fact." Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(b)(1). In the Motion, Movants fail to identify the specific "claim or defense"

they purport to assert. Nor do Movants identify any federal statute under which they have a conditional right to intervene.

As demonstrated, there is no basis on which to allow intervention by Movants under Rule 24(a)(2) or Rule 24(b), and the Motion should be denied.

It is not surprising that Movants have entirely failed to construct a request for intervention satisfying even the most basic requirements for that relief. The Movants have a history of filing frivolous motions. See, e.g., Order Denying Mot. to Intervene at 2 n.4, Oracle Am., Inc. v. Tetrix Computer Co., Case No. 5:13-cv-03385-PSG (N.D. Ca. Mar. 25, 2015), ECF No. 571 (denying motion by Movants to intervene and noting that Movant Jonathan Riches has a "long and litigious history filing frivolous lawsuits in courts across the country.") The results of an ECF/Pacer USParty/Case Index Search conducted on April 9, 2015, for "Riches, Jonathan Lee" indicated that Mr. Riches has been a party to 3,670 cases. See http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov (follow "Case Search Sign In" hyperlink); see also Report and Recommendation of United States Magistrate Judge at 3, Solliday v. Dir. of Bureau of Prisons, Case No. 0:11-cv-02350-MJD-JJG (D. Minn. Oct. 8, 2014), ECF No. 56 (providing results of an ECF/Pacer USParty/Case Index Search for "Riches, Jonathan Lee" as of October 8, 2014), adopted in Amended Order on Report and Recommendation (D. Minn. Nov. 17, 2014), ECF No. 59. In fact, Movant "Jonathon Rich" has been restricted by several courts, including Judge

Ludington of this Court, from filing future documents in those courts unless he first obtains permission of the court or unless any such filing is signed by a licensed attorney:

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED that . . . An order be issued further restricting the proposed filings of Jonathan Lee Riches (a.k.a. Jonathan Rich, Rich Jonny Lee, Gordon Gekko, Ryan Howard, Mats Sundin, Trevor Wikre, or anyone signing with Inmate Identification Number KX9662) by directing the Clerk of Court for the District of Minnesota to refuse **any type of filings** submitted by Mr. Riches unless he receives permission to file the proposed document from a United States Magistrate Judge or unless the document is signed by a licensed attorney

Id. at 2-4, 8 (emphasis added); see also Order Adopting Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation, Dismissing Plaintiff's Complaint with Prejudice and Enjoining Plaintiff From Filing Future Actions Without Leave of the Court, Riches v. Aguilera, Case No. 1:07-cv-14460-TLL-CEB (E.D. Mich. Feb. 5, 2008), ECF. No. 4.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, the undersigned Defendants respectfully submit that Movants' Motion should be denied.

Dated: April 20, 2015 Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 20, 2015, I electronically filed the foregoing Opposition to Motion to Intervene with the Clerk of the Court using the ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the ECF participants.

Dated: April 20, 2015 By: /s/ Steven A. Reiss

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